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(95)

October 20, 1981

Department of State (CA/OCS/EMR)

CASC: W/W Case of John J. Sullivan

Amembassy San Salvador - Attn: Mr. George Lannon

REF : Martinez/Lannon TELCON of 10/20/81

The Attached is a copy of a letter dated September 25, 1981, which was received yesterday by the Washington Post from an individual in San Salvador who alleges that John J. Sullivan was killed in January by the Hacienda Police. Existence of letter came to the Department's attention this morning, when Mr. Sullivan's sister, Donna Igoe, was contacted by Post reporter.

Mrs. Igoe authorized Embassy to use Sullivan newspaper ad to pass "code" to Hacienda agent.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 1 5 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Attachment: As stated

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The Washington Post

Date 10/20/81

TO Mr. Jim Webb

FROM Brian Barger

RE: Per our discussion, enclosed is a copy of the letter we received yesterday, along with a rough translation I did. I hope this letter will facilitate your ongoing investigation of the Sullivan disappearance. I would greatly appreciate your keeping me abreast of the investigation, and if there is anything I could do to help, please give me a call.

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¤The following is a translation of a letter received October 20, 1981 by the Washington Post.

¤September 25, 1981

¤Mr. Ambassador, newspaper people and the U.S. Consulate.

¤Information in your newspaper is authentic. I am an agent of the Hacienda Police. Within my rights to tell the truth to the world, I direct this to you requesting you analyse this document.concerning the death of the journalist Mr John J. Sullivan, killed in the month of January in our country after having registered in a hotel. (Sullivan) was captured by a contingent of the Hacienda Police. and was taken to the barracks and was tortured by a Sargent in charge of the mission. His statement was taken by an official. and because his spanish is so deficient. his statement was taped. "He explained" that he was a journalist. and was confused for a Belgian Priest. One eye was wounded from the physical torture. He was tall and wore a ring.

¤A high level official has his camara, and he was carrying more or less 500 dollars when he was captured. The journalist died from the beatings and electric shock. and then was taken to a place where he was buried with others killed. He asked where was San Vicente.

¤I will give my name if I am given guarantees to be able to desert my corps. and go to another country.

¤I will give all the details on how Mr. Sullivan was killed and where his body is. I do not want compensation; I only need to leave the country.

¤I will send this letter to various necessary countries. In the newspaper, without printing my name, give me the code (clave) to reach your embassy without anyone harming me. to send me with guarantees to another country.

¤Agent Yorman Identification 2-28874

¤San Salvador. September 1981

¤Answer without mentioning this corps. (Hacienda Police). If I can go to the embassy safely or if I can seek exile through (another) embassy.

¤

¤

¤

¤Letter addressed to:

¤Mr. Director of the newspaper Washington Post

¤U.S.A news department

¤

¤

¤return address:

¤Barracks. Hacienda Police

¤San Salvador, El Salvador.

¤Central America**END OF STORY**

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RETURN TO
Cuartel Policia de Hacienda
San Salvador, El
Salvador, C A
ZIP CODE

Señor Director del
Periodico Washington Post
E. U. A Dpto de noticias.

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25 de Septiembre de 1981

E. U. A Señor Embajador.

Señores del Periodico Y Consulado de E.U.A
información a su Periodico. es autentica
Yo Agente de la Policia de Hacienda.
En el deber de desir la Verdad al
mundo me dirijo a ed fudiendo
analices este documento. Respecto a la
muerte del señor Periodista JOHN J Sullivan
muerto en el mes de Enero en nuestro
País despues de haber registrado
en un Hotel. Relato el señor mencionado
fue capturado Por un contingente de
Policias de hacienda que llevado al
Cuartel Y fue Torturado. Por un sargento
que se encarga de esa mición. fue
tomada su declaración Por un oficial
Y como su español hera muy deficiente
grabaron su declaración el explicó que
hera Periodista Y lo confundieron con
un sacerdote Belga. su ojo se le
daño Por las torturas fisicas

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[redacted]

Nera alto Portaba un anillo
La cámara la tiene un oficial
de alta graduación y llebare en sus
bolsillos mas o menos cuando se
capturó 500# dolares el mencionado
Periodista murió de los golpes y
Choques eléctricos y fue llevado a
un lugar donde fue arrojado su
cuerpo juntamente con otros muertos
El preguntaba donde hera San Vicente
dirí mi nombre se me dan
garantia Para desentarme de este
cuerpo y huir a otro País.
Pais todos los detalles como fue
muerto el señor Sullivan y donde
está su cuerpo. No quiero recompensa
solo necesito salir de este País.
Esta carta la envíe a Varios Paises
necesitos en el Periodico sin Poner mi
nombre me de la clave Para llegar
a su embajada sin que nadie me

[redacted]

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haga mingun daño y enviarme
con garantias a otro Pais.

Agente Morán. cedula 2-268724
San Salvador. septiembre 1981
conteste sin mencionar este cuerpo
si puedo ir a embajada con seguridad
o si puedo exilarme en una embajada

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Brian Barger
The Washington Post Foreign Desk
1150 15th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20071

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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